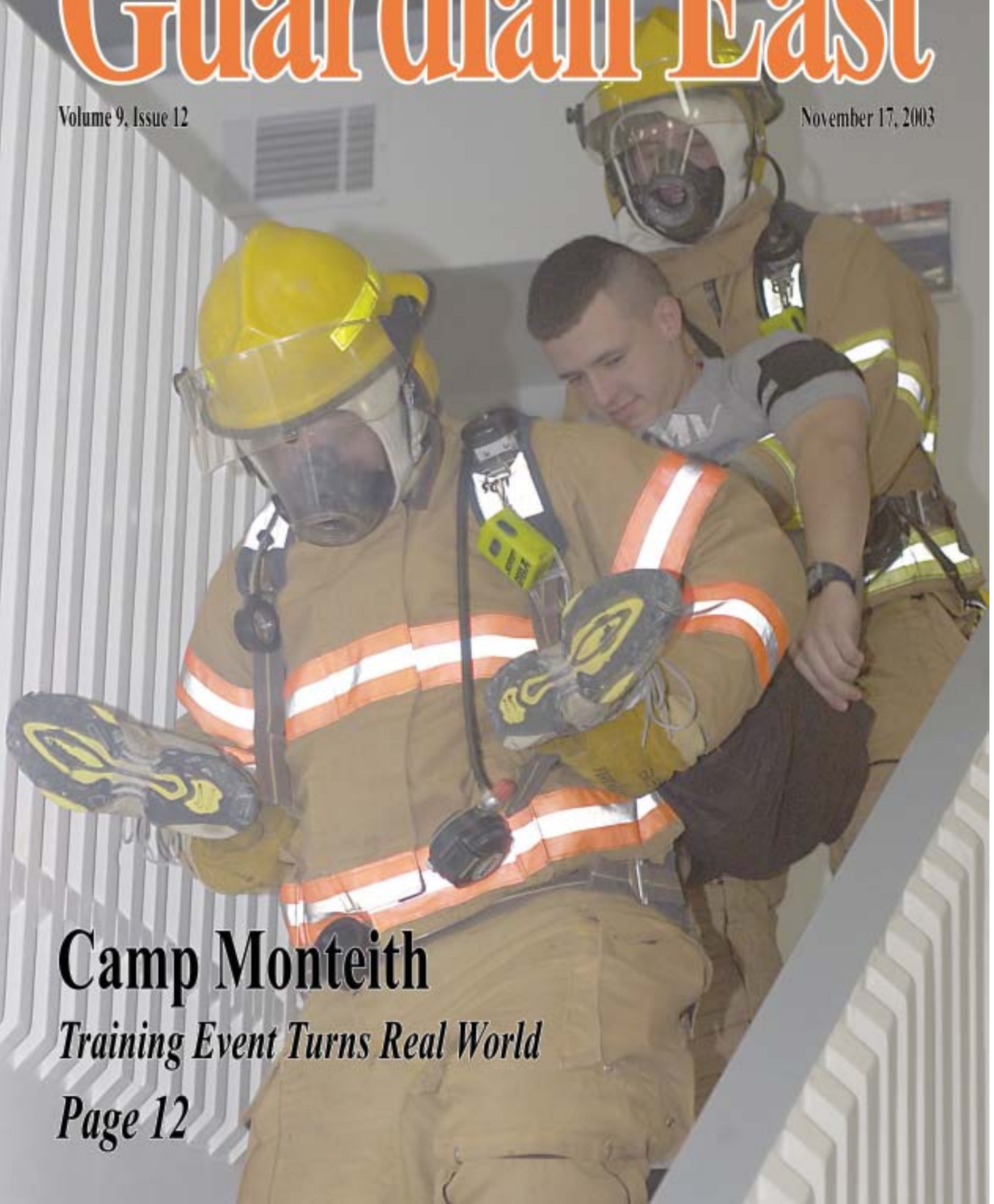


Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

Guardian East

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November 17, 2003



Camp Monteith

Training Event Turns Real World

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Message to the troops



Reflection by Maj. Hillary A. Luton

My Soldiers recently asked me what I had learned during our mobilization in Kosovo. I could go with my favorite response of, "Everything I know, I learned in Kindergarten" however, that would not be entirely accurate. The fact of the matter is I have learned so many things during our mobilization, that it is difficult to express all of them.

Instead of the typical, "I learned more about public affairs", "I understand my role better", "I learned more about information operations than I thought I ever wanted to know", I would rather discuss what I learned about people, Soldiers more specifically and about the military as a whole.

One of the most important things that I learned, is that life is not always what it seems, especially in the military. We continually say, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade; well this couldn't be truer. Keeping an open mind is essential to our mission in Kosovo. Not only because our deployment dates can change at any

given time, but because it is important to get all of the facts before making a decision. It is important to know what questions to ask, and then ask them. Like any good journalist, it is always good to dig a little deeper to get all of the information before writing the story. It is especially important not to over react before knowing all of the details of a situation.

We, as Soldiers, want to do the best we can for our country, for our families, for the people we are here to protect. We take a great deal of pride in the job we do. It is important that we do not let that pride overtake our desire to do good for mankind. It is our primary job to defend our nation; however, by teaching the citizens of Kosovo tolerance and diversity, we are doing exactly that. The more the citizens of the world learn how to get along with each other and work together, the more we, as Americans, are influencing the world in a positive manner.

There is another very important thing that I have learned here. Soldiers complain. It's a fact of life. However,



**Maj. Hillary A. Luton
before deployment to Kosovo**

how a Soldier complains is very important. If a Soldier complains to anyone who will listen, that is not always the best way to handle or fix a situation. If a Soldier goes completely outside of his/her chain of command to complain, that is especially not the best way to handle a situation. Our chain of command is here for a reason. It is here to help solve problems at the

See LUTON on page 9

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

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Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

COVER: Firemen rescue "Casualty," Spc. Bryce E. Leek during "Exercise Falcon Watch" at Camp Monteith Oct. 29. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

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Guardian East

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Sister Linda Pergega explains the history of the Binca Catholic Church to Chief Warrant Officer James Yingling (right), Special Agent Mike Kremper, (back), and interpreter Tajar Hoxa. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

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Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace talks with Pfc. Anaidy Claudio and Marine Staff Sgt. Latricia Young during a breakfast at Camp Bondsteel's North Dining Facility Oct. 31. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

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Thinking Back: *What's my Takeaway?*

Reflection by Capt. Lora L. Neal

Thinking back to when I left my Montana home in March I am awe-struck at how much has happened and what I've experienced.

Before coming to Kosovo I could not imagine what the public affairs mission would be and worse yet, didn't have a clue as to the situation in Kosovo. One thing I selfishly planned, I would leave Kosovo a changed person.

I have said it many times but that doesn't make it any less true; I could not have gained, in a lifetime of drills, what I gained from this deployment. All of us here are the lucky ones! We still have civilian lives to go back to. This is just a great experience.

As the plans and targeting officer for the PAO I have been fortunate enough to work with the brightest bunch of people. It hasn't yet ceased to amaze me the caliber of people sitting around a table wargaming, and the experience each one brings to the effort.

Mobilizing with the 203rd MPAD has been one of the most significant events in my career, and dare I say, life. Commanders have told me during my military time that troop time is the best part of one's career. Until coming here and serving as executive officer for the MPAD I really didn't understand the "troop time" concept. Now I see.

To have had the opportunity to watch a unit of Soldiers jump into their mission, perform their military occupation specialty exceedingly well, and to feel a part of a team that has gelled as a strong unit is one of the most rewarding events of which I have been part.

Each time the 203rd MPAD soldiers put together an issue of the Guardian East magazine, I think I was at least as excited as each one of

them in anticipation for it to hit the streets. We all know parents who are proud of their children and talk about them incessantly. While I may not talk about the unit all the time, I am so very proud of each member and their contribution to not only the task force, but also to the morale of other troops, and to the enrichment of citizens within MNB(E)'s sphere of influence.

I am satisfied when one of our journalists or broadcasters has taken pictures, written a story, or shot video of a unit or individual and is then asked for copies of the magazine, photos, or video to send home. Public Affairs tells the Army's story!!! We are the good guys. We show Soldiers in the best possible light. We have done our job when we make YOU feel good about yourself. We see the intrinsic good in almost everyone and we see stories waiting to be developed. Make no mistake, it takes talent to write as well as our journalists.

Thomas Paine's famous quote, "The Summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW deserves the love and

"The Summer Soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Thomas Paine

thanks of man and woman," reminds me of so many Soldiers who, having volunteered in the first place, to serve, have sacrificed much to participate in this mission. Many people wanted to go to Iraq. Faith is such a difficult concept but I have to believe each one of us is here because this is where we are supposed to be at this time.

And speaking of faith, I would be remiss if I failed to mention how fortunate we are to have the unit ministry team we do. Coming to Camp



Capt. Lora L. Neal

Bondsteel was freeing in a sense. Having no distracters enabled me to focus on personal improvement. People who fail to take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities to explore their own faith, who fail to use the gyms to get into excellent physical shape, or who fail to use the time to better themselves in some way are truly missing the point. We are here on a peacekeeping mission. We are not

getting shot at. When we are off duty, we are able to truly relax.

It's going to be a shock going home. I'll have to cook for myself and do my own laundry. One of my friends said

he couldn't think of a better set up than to walk into a building, get free food, walk over and pick up clean and folded laundry, then go view a free movie. Isn't that the truth!

I didn't get out of the wire as much as I wanted, but fortunately worked with such a professional bunch of NCO's and enlisted Soldiers who were wise enough to tell me when it was time for a change of scenery. I am

See NEAL on page 19

Seeking Significance: *Through a Child's Eyes*

Reflection by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

A few weeks ago, when a large contingent of Pennsylvania media came to visit the troops at Camps Bondsteel and Monteith, two television stations interviewed troops from their viewing area.

One question the TV reporters asked of Soldiers was simple: "What is your mission here?"

The answers, however, left me somewhat dumb-founded.

Most Soldiers stared silently into the camera, or glanced down at their boots and then stuttered.... "um, uh, my mission? I...I know what I do, but I don't know what our mission is...exactly."

I don't look down upon these Soldiers, not one bit. I guess I know my "mission" here because part of it IS to know my mission – to be able to put in words the work that KFOR is doing and what we call the "commanding general's intent," or command themes or even "information operations" messages. No matter what the command group calls it: I laughingly refer to it as the Kosovo 4-step program.

1. Create a safe and secure environment
 2. Help transition our authority to civil authorities
 3. Ensure freedom of movement for all people.
 4. Provide humanitarian assistance where needed.
- Simple, right?

"You're working with the Army guys to stop the bad guys from hurting people, and you're making all the people share."

Carter Robert Schaap Age 4

My 4-year old son knows my mission, perhaps better than I do. When I call home and remind him I'm in Kosovo, he says, "Mommy, you're working with the Army guys to stop the bad guys from hurting people, and you're making all the people share, and you're giving all the kids clothes and shoes and food, and helping their daddies build brand new houses. And you're taking their pictures and giving them lollipops." (Of course, candy is a priority with any 4-year old!)

Well, after 7 months here, I know it's not as simple as all that. But maybe it should be.

Of course, there are those in the infantry and psychological operations, those military policemen and civil affairs Soldiers who are out in sector every single day of their rotation. I believe they see a Kosovo most of us will never understand. They work in that place my son imagines; a place mommies and daddies fly to and help poor children.



Sgt. Heidi Schaap

They build houses and guard the elderly and hug small children. My son thinks I am a great mommy because I am a "big helper" to Kosovo. I know he desperately wants me home - not, perhaps, as desperately as I need to be home with him. But still, he understands – how, I am not quite sure - something that is far beyond his four little years: He ends our phone conversations the same way each week.

"You're not done yet, huh, mommy?"

"That's right, baby," I tell him. "Mommy still has work to do."

He is unselfish, even at a typically me-centered age. He has "allowed" me to stay. He thinks I am making a difference. He believes I have a purpose. *I am significant.*

Not every one of us will have a life-changing experience here. Many carry a hard heart toward Kosovo, because Kosovo is the place that took them away from their family, their friends, their jobs, their *lives*. I know Soldiers who are content to sit all day in front of a computer screen, or hiding in a motor pool and maintain they have no purpose in being here...

The best advice I ever got from anyone was scribbled in the front of a book I received as a high school graduation present.

Seek Significance, he wrote.

To seek significance is to work at being important, or at least relevant, to the world around you. But I believe with all my heart that you cannot be significant unless you know your purpose here, *your mission*.

I have received, and I'm sure many of you have, too, care packages and sweet, hand-drawn cards from school children in the states.

"Thanks for serving our country," they resonate.

I used to laugh. *I'm not serving our country, I'm serving a group of people who aren't making any effort to even serve themselves*, I thought.

See SCHAAP on page 9

Monteith Memories

Reflection by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – As the C-130 stopped on the runway at Pristina's airport and members of the 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment deplaned, I could not help but look around at the picturesque valley in which I found myself. We boarded a bus bound for Camp Bondsteel and meandered through the narrow streets of the province of Kosovo. As we rode, I gazed curiously out the window. I remember how my heart sank to see the incomplete homes of the impoverished people living in conditions that would make the poorest of people in the United States feel fortunate.

However, as the Bible says in James 2:4, "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

The people of Kosovo have shown this over and again. From the welcoming waves of children as we drive past them, to local officials and homeowners inviting Soldiers to sit and have a cup of coffee, the citizens of Kosovo have shown the Soldiers of MNB(E) hearts full of warmth and joy in the face of their despair.



Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

As I ready myself to leave this beautiful province and its wonderful people, I think back on some of the major events of which I have been blessed to be a part. I ponder the Soldiers of Task Force 2-2 Infantry, how they soldiered on in the face of seeing their re-deployment date come and go as they remained with boots on the ground in Kosovo. I found it inspiring that they did not allow their extension to hinder their operations while they must have missed their families terribly.

As I watched Soldiers from Pennsylvania begin their

"Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom?"

James 2:4

relief of those weary warriors, and change the signs around post from the "Big Red 1" to the "Bloody Bucket," I recalled how happy my counterparts were to see me as they prepared to go home, and I saw the same enthusiasm with them.

Perhaps the most awe-inspiring events I saw were the small day-to-day ambassadorships of all the Soldiers. It fills me with great pride to serve along side people with such compassion and love for others. Instead of the troops letting this time away from their own families get them down, I witnessed Soldiers give selflessly to children in schools and villages. Sometimes they gave a small thing such as candy to children on patrol. Other times, their families back home sent school supplies and clothing to give to locals. In a world where hate is all too prevalent, the Soldiers I have had the pleasure of serving with are an example to the people here of how compassion can be the greatest of all conquerors.

While conducting my duties as a print journalist, I was given much help by an NCO support channel outside my unit that treated me as one of their own. Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Winiecki, through his undying support, served as a constant reminder of just what the Army "family" is all about. Sgt. 1st Class Ray Archer, Staff Sgt. Kevin Dreibelbis and David Decker, and Spc. Laurie Trupp and Bryan Verano of the 628th Finance Detachment were always good for a laugh when I needed one. I thoroughly enjoyed playing softball with the Camp Monteith champion "Leftovers." I thank all of you for keeping me going when I was down. None of you will ever know how much you helped me.

I wish to thank all of the Soldiers I have come to know and care for. There are just too many to mention in these few lines. I will carry you with me always in my heart. Without all of you who helped me complete my mission, I would not have had a mission. It is my prayer that you all safely leave Kosovo and return to your families and friends and that this world come to know peace so you may never have need to be away from them again.

Heroes Among Us

Reflection by Spc. Christina E. Witten

Seven months ago, my husband David gave me a supportive shove in the right direction, and I reluctantly boarded the bus that would take me on a 22-hour ride to Fort Stewart, Georgia, a place most of us know far too well.

A little over a month later, my unit, the 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, arrived in Kosovo. Immediately we jumped into the saddle of a bucking bull, and have been hanging on for dear life since.

As Kosovo's weather turned from exasperating heat to hostile cold, the weeks seemed to drag on. All along, David assured me I would someday look back on this deployment with pride and fondness. There have been many times when I couldn't imagine ever acquiring such feelings, but as my tour in Kosovo comes to an end, I have become an advocate of David's vision. Gen. George Patton said it best in an address to troops in June 1944.

"There's one great thing that you men can say when it's all over and you're home once more," Patton stated. "You can thank God that twenty years from now when you're sitting by the fireside with your grandson on your knee, and he asks you what you did in the war, you won't have to shift him to the other knee, cough and say, 'I shoveled crap in Louisiana.'"

We have gone above and beyond the call of an American citizen by volunteering a part of our lives to share America's freedom, democracy and prosperity with the people of Kosovo. When our children and grandchildren ask us about our service in the military, we have a story to share with them that we can all be proud of.

The 203rd has worked as a team and accomplished the creation of twelve issues of the Guardian East as well as numerous media escorts, press releases and broadcast stories. We hope you have enjoyed the benefits of our hard work.

As a military journalist, I have had the opportunity to witness the heroism displayed daily by American, Greek,

Polish, Ukrainian and Lithuanian Soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East). Some might say "heroism" is too strong of a word, but I know better.

If I ever have any doubts, I'll search through the cobwebs of my mind and dig out the memories of the people KFOR rescued before my very eyes.

I'll never forget my first assignment in Kosovo where I witnessed reluctant Serbian and Albanian children learn to play together with a little help from Polish-Ukrainian Battalion soldiers and interpreters.

I learned the most about the situation in Kosovo when I interviewed three elderly Serbian women in Ferizaj who feel safe as 506th Mechanized Battalion (Greece) soldiers look after them.

It will always put a smile on my face to remember the excited school children that received donations of clothing and school supplies from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade; the grateful hospital staff members in Ferizaj that received donations of supplies, furniture and food from American Civil Affairs and the 506th; and the grateful populous of the many villages visited by MNB(E) Soldiers during Medical Civilian Assistance Program events.

I'll be proud of my country when I

"Every single man in this Army plays a vital role."

Gen. George Patton

recollect the way an Albanian man's face lit up in awe as President Clinton shook his hand and agreed to pose for a picture.

When I consider the site of people freely attending churches, visiting cemeteries and conducting business as usual without fear as MNB(E) Soldiers carry out presence patrols, I'll remain hopeful.

I have also witnessed many Soldiers act selflessly within our camps by fulfilling their daily duties. Company E, 107th Aviation, air traffic



Spc. Christina E. Witten

controllers; the 175th Military Police Battalion and Norwegian Dog Section dog handlers; the 628th Finance Detachment Soldiers; the Area Support Group Falcon Soldiers; the 313th AG Postal Detachment 1, and the Polish and Greek liaison officers and press officers, have all been a helping hand of support for the Soldiers and overall mission of MNB(E).

These are merely the units and Soldiers I have had the honor of writing about and working with over the past

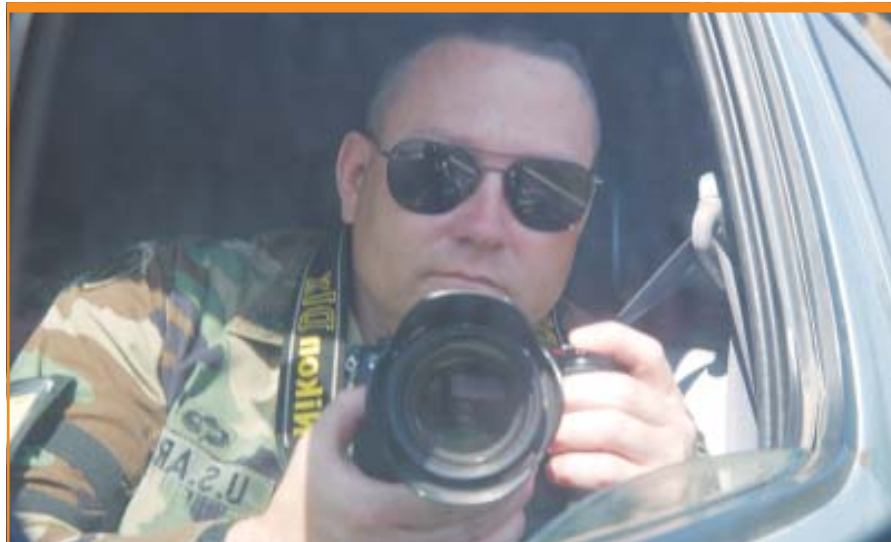
six months. All of them have acted professional and courageous, and that is something they, their families, their states and their countries should be grateful for and proud of. World freedom and democracy depend on such individuals,

willing to sacrifice a part of themselves for the greater good.

For those of you who still have a few months left in Kosovo, keep up the good work, and never forget how important you are.

"All of the real heroes are not storybook combat fighters, either," stated Patton. "Every single man in this Army plays a vital role. Don't ever let up. Don't ever think that your job is unimportant. Every man has a job to do and he must do it. Every man is a vital link in the great chain."

Reflections on Kosovo



1st Sgt. Robert Heberling reflected in his side view mirror

Reflection by 1st Sgt. Robert Heberling

Do you want a piece of me? Well do you Kosovo? Do ya? Well you've got it!

Pretty bold words for a weekend warrior hey? But let's think about them a little more. Several months ago, I, like every other Soldier here got word my unit was mobilizing. We were to go to the Balkans. Not really a big surprise for most and with Iraq in the headlines quite a relief for others.

So, what did we have to do? Where did we have to go first? You know those answers already. The big question was, "what is it going to be like once we get there?" After surviving SRC, CTT, dental exams, vaccinations, the rifle range and T-SIRT, we all had a pretty good idea what life was going to be like for the next several months. Check-a-Hooah! But we still didn't really know. Not until you take that first step off of that C-130 and take a big whiff does it hit you like Dorothy said, "Toto, I don't think were in Kansas anymore!"

Then you were hit with a whole other barrage of questions. Like, who are those guys there in the funny looking camouflage? What color is that anyway? And why are those guys over there carrying AK-47s? Are they on our side? Why does everything they say

sound like "mush mush mush?" Maybe I should have opened up that thick green book I got after T-SIRT!

After the initial shock and that first long bus ride from Pristina things start settling in. The only things left to do are find your way around the place and consume a wealth of information on a learning curve that's steeper than Radar Hill. No sweat! Mission accomplished. Now it's time to set the cruise control for the next six months. Right? Maybe.

Have you been to Ferizaj? Have you been to Gjilane? Have you been to Klokot? I highly recommend it. I have been fortunate enough to see these places and more. You can't see these places and not be affected. Sure, you can close your eyes. Or you can never leave Bondsteel until it's time for you to go back home. But then can you really say you have seen Kosovo? Can you really understand why we are here?

I had a Doctor in Gjilane come up to me and shake my hand and tell me how glad he was to see us here. He was maybe sixty years old and had lived through it all. A few minutes into

his story about what life used to be like in Kosovo he said "thank God for the United States." After that he was so choked up he could no longer talk and had to walk away. What could I say? I was speechless.

So what does this all have to do with fighting? Not a thing. In fact, just the opposite. As I am writing this I have just finished clearing out my office and packing up my things from my desk. Tomorrow my replacement will be arriving. I am glad to be going home. But I am also saddened that this journey is coming to an end. There is no description to explain how I feel about the friends I have made while here. It's a bond between soldiers. If you have never felt it you will not know what I mean. But chances are you know exactly what I mean. Yes, Kosovo already has a piece of me. It is part of my life now. Soon to be a memory but not soon forgotten.

I wish I could thank everyone who has affected me here. I don't have enough space. Command Sgt. Maj. Gioia and 1st Sgt Hendrix from the Big Red One come to mind first. How could we forget these guys! If you never met

them you missed out. Perhaps Command Sgt. Maj. Jacoby from the 28th. If you don't know who he is just start doing push ups right now. DO IT! Lilly Koldashi and Blerim Bytyqi. Falëmnderit në Shqip! And lastly how can I not mention the soldiers in my unit, the 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Wichita, Kansas. You guys made my job easy. Without you I couldn't have done it. My hat is

**"A Doctor in
Gjilane (came)
up to me and
(told) me...
'thank God for
the United
States.'"**

1st Sgt. Robert Heberling

off to you!

Well, as you read this I will be a few short days from departing Camp Bondsteel for the last time. Destined for Ft. Living Room to enjoy a few grain based beverages. Rest assured I will be toasting all the fine soldiers who will still be here doing what they do best.

Ditën e mirë!



Maj. Hillary A. Luton
still smiling at the end of deployment to Kosovo

LUTON *From page 2*

lowest possible level. When we go outside that chain, we are saying that we do not trust our leaders to do their job. That does not make for a very productive team. But it is not just the complaining that is an issue. Before we open our mouths to insert our foot, we should stop to think about how much good can come out of what we want to say. Do we have a solution to the problem that we would like to express or do we really even know what we are complaining about?

I recently received a complaint from a Soldier about how we write rank in the *Guardian East Magazine*. Instead of asking me why we write rank the way we do, the Soldier simply insinuated that my Soldiers must be in the Air Force (no offense to the Air Force) and implied that they didn't know how to write. Had the Soldier thought to ask why we write rank using upper and lower case letters, my Soldiers and I would have been more than willing to explain the doctrine we are required to follow in public affairs. The standard format for journalism is detailed in the AP Stylebook. This is the "bible" for all journalistic writing. The

military has adopted this "bible" to use as the guide for writing military press releases, magazines and newspapers. The reason being, that civilians as well as military read the publications and the civilians do not always understand the Army's style of writing rank. It also helps the Army to tell its story to civilian news sources, which is the purpose of Army Public Affairs.

As my third deployment, this has been, by far, the best. Each deployment has taught me many things about myself, about the world in which we live and about the military as a whole. I have had countless opportunities to learn about worlds that I never expected to see. For me, this has helped me develop a greater understanding of the people in different cultures. And as a 21-year veteran, this has been the most fascinating part of my career. It is one thing to say that I learned something; it is a completely different thing to say that I learned more about the world outside of my little box in Omaha, Nebraska.

But there is one thing I have to say. The most important thing I have learned, not only in Kosovo, but in my career, is that Soldiers will give you what you give them. As a leader, it is obviously important to provide leadership to Soldiers; however, being a leader is not just giving commands. It is giving a little bit of yourself to every Soldier you have.

Listening to them, supporting them, and showing them that you care about them, goes a long way to being a leader. We, as leaders, are the framework of the military, but without our Soldiers to fill in that frame, we have no picture. I owe my successes as a leader to my Soldiers. If it were not for them, I could not do my job. They have been especially important to me here in Kosovo as I've juggled two jobs. They frequently went the extra mile when I asked them to and they were always understanding when they didn't see their commander all of the time. I thank them for all of their hard work, their dedication and for supporting me in making this a successful deployment. I could not have done it without them and I would not have wanted to.

As our days in Kosovo come to an end, I would like to say good luck to all of the soldiers in the 28th Inf. Div. and supporting units during the remainder of your deployment. It has been an honor to work with you and I wish each and every one of you all of the best.

SCHAAP *From page 5*

Seven months in Kosovo have changed my mind. I am serving my country. I know my purpose. I am significant...

I cannot create a safe and secure environment: I will never stop a riot or seize a weapons cache like the MPs or infantry do. I cannot transition them to civil authority or promote freedom of movement: I am not involved in municipal matters, like Civil Affairs. My unit hasn't overseen a humanitarian aid project, like many others have.

Still, I seek significance. I have seen joy in the eyes of little children

when I took their photo. With every click of my shutter, I have told them: "You are worth something. You are valuable to this place, and so is the little person to your right and to your left."

To every elderly woman, who covers her mouth while smiling because she believes she's not pretty enough to be in a photograph, my camera has said "I want to remember you. I want to remember this place. Do not throw it away. Do not ruin it. It is too important. And you, and your children, and your grand-children's children are much too precious to be wasted."

And you, too, Soldier. My pur-

pose is to tell your story. When I photographed you, I was telling you, "Do not waste this chance you have been given."

I understand the sacrifices you have made. I made some, too. But I remain confident that what we are doing here is more than passing time. You have only "wasted" a year of your life if you decided it was a waste.

Know your purpose. Seek significance. Maybe you will not change Kosovo, but certainly, you can allow Kosovo to change you.

Baby, Mommy's almost done here. It's someone else's turn to be a big helper to Kosovo. It's my turn to come home.

Kosovo Through the Eyes of a Greek Doctor

Story by 1st Lt. Koumaras Charalampos, 506th Mechanized Battalion (Greece) Medical Platoon Physician

CAMP RIGAS FEREOS, Kosovo – Being assigned to the 506th Mechanized Battalion (Greece) almost two months ago, which replaced the 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) as a part of KFOR, represented an important change in my professional life.

One of the first things I became aware of was that a physician's role in Kosovo is somehow beyond the usual standards with which I was familiar. After 40 days in Camp Rigas Fereos, I fully understood and accepted the fact that apart from the medical care I provide to my unit, I also have the duty and privilege to serve as a good-will ambassador towards the local community.

The local population only recently realized the importance of advanced medical support and, undoubtedly, the Medical Civilian Assistance Program contributed a great deal to this cause. The concept of this effort is to assist poor villages, which do not yet have direct contact with the local hospitals, in terms of medical care, medication, self-sufficiency, and, if necessary, advice to visit the nearest hospital as soon as possible.

Our intention, from the beginning, was to establish a relationship of mutual respect with the residents in our area of responsibility. Thus, considering the fact that the MEDCAP is highly appreciated as one of the more obvious ways to help people, we began organizing our first one as soon as we arrived in Kosovo. MEDCAP events show the



1st Lt. Koumaras Charalampos examines a young patient during a MEDCAP event in September. Photo submitted by Charalampos.

1st Lt. Koumaras Charalampos examines an elderly patient during a MEDCAP event in September. Photo submitted by Charalampos.



local populous that cooperation can and will be beneficial for both sides.

After two weeks of preparation, our first MEDCAP took place in Zaskok Sept. 11. Zaskok is a village situated relatively close to Ferizaj/Urosevac with 900 residents; all of them Albanian, and like most villages in this area, there is no health center or community clinic to which to refer people. For this initial effort there were no physicians involved other than myself. Between the hours of 10:00 am and 17:00 hours forty-nine people of various ages came for help or advice.

Eight days later, we repeated our efforts in the Albanian village of Donje Nerodimlje, with 1,200 residents. I was assisted by two colleagues, Dr. Dursim Ramadani, currently working at Ferizaj/Urosevac's Health House, and Capt. Bislim Bislimi, the 361st Detachment Kosovo Protection Corps physician. We examined 68 patients in five and one half hours.

Based on my short experience, after these two MEDCAPs, the local population will eventually realize they are entitled to sufficient medical care, and will expect their physicians to meet their needs. They should also, hopefully, expect their political leaders to provide them with the benefits of a more complete social security system. The existing health system still seems inadequate. Therefore MEDCAPs will continue being a matter of first priority for KFOR in the near future. Step by step and working together, KFOR and local doctors must go on upgrading the level of medical care so the citizens in this long-suffering territory are served in the best possible way.

POLUKRBAT Helps Bring Kosovars Home

Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

GORNJA BITINA, Kosovo – Tolerance in Kosovo is an emerging success story. The homes being built in the villages Gornja Bitina and Popovce are excellent examples of the progress being made.

In recent months the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has approved the building of 38 homes in Gornja Bitina and 3 homes in Popovce. The homes are being built for displaced persons who now feel it is safe to return.

Thanks to the safe and secure environment Polish-Ukrainian Battalion soldiers provide, an increasingly tolerant civilian population, and the UNHCR, new, yet modest, homes are being built for these Kosovars.

The first home's beneficiaries are Miftar and Rahime Bakiu, an aged, but sturdy-looking couple. The Bakiu's returned to their homeland just five months ago. Miftar says their return was, in part, due to the security POLUKRBAT soldiers provide.

"They are present all day," Miftar explained, "and every day they are interested in what is happening here. Their presence gives me security so I can work and have my house built without somebody interrupting."

Miftar also wanted to thank all Soldiers within KFOR for what they have given his family.

"I appreciate KFOR and the American, Ukraine, and Polish armies," he stated. "I was born here, and my father and grandfather lived here, and I was able to come back. I am happy now that I can live here and have a new house."

Just outside Gornja Bitina is the village Popovce. These villages are so close, it's difficult to recognize where one ends and the other begins.

When residents of Gornja Bitina began returning to their homes, there was concern that Popovce residents would protest and set up roadblocks, preventing traffic to Gornja Bitina, but Capt. Jacek Mazur, POLUKRBAT press officer, was proud to report there have been no problems in this area.

"Everyone who lived here can come back here without problems and live in Gornja Bitina," Mazur explained, "and the two communities don't quarrel. I think they will rebuild these houses without problems."

Besides the obvious help being offered to the recipients of the new homes, the project is also helping provide much-needed jobs to Kosovars.

The contract for the Gornja Bitina homes was given to a Vitina-based construction company. The project is currently employing 10 workers, and is expected to employ more in future



Miftar and Rahime Bakiu of Gornja Bitina pose for a picture in front of the structure they are living in until the completion of their new home.

months.

According to construction worker Ilir Ismajli, the job has been very good for him.

Mazur explained, "I think these are very good jobs for them because there is a big unemployment rate. Thanks to this job they can maintain their family and live comfortably."

And, thanks to the rebuilding of homes, these people can begin rebuilding

their lives, and their multi-ethnic relationships.

"I was born here, and my father and grandfather lived here...I am happy now that I can live here and have a new house."

Miftar Bakiu



Training Event Turns Real World

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – Warning sirens sounded on Camp Monteith and a voice came over the public address system to alert personnel to the beginning of a training exercise Oct. 29. It was designed to assess the readiness of Soldiers and civilians to react to acts of aggression aimed at



Radio Repairman Sgt. Matt L. Mecera of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry is helped out of a smoke-filled gym by Camp Monteith fire fighters as part of "Exercise Falcon Watch" Oct. 29.

the camp.

Exercise Falcon Watch began the day prior with reports being called in to the 1-111th Infantry's tactical operations center and intelligence assets. These reports, once pooled, created an environment worthy of upgrading the force protection condition of the camp. Once the FPCON was increased, "civilians" attempted to gain entry to the camp using false identification and a "stolen car."

"We are testing the response of various emergency units and the Soldiers and civilian staff of the installation in the event of an emergency incident," said Maj. Timothy V. Meadows, area support team commander and incident commander.

The alert horn sounded, announcing the post should be on the lookout for a suspect vehicle. Shortly thereafter, it was spotted on post and the military police brought their K-9 assets to sweep the vehicle. The unit indicated a positive response for explosives, and explosive ordnance disposal was called in to handle the situation.

As the exercise continued, an "explosion" causing injuries prompted the response of ambulance and fire personnel.

The emergency response personnel went into action clearing the scene, attending to injuries and putting out the fire.

"Fire fighting for 15 minutes is pretty much like working at a construction site for eight hours," said Task Force Falcon Fire Chief Jon C. Stanesco.

The rescued victims were triaged and taken to the Camp Monteith Troop Medical Clinic where the medics of HHC, 1-111th Infantry began stabilization and called for a



simulated medical evacuation.

Military Police secured the site and the exercise ended. However, while leaders were reviewing the events of the day, another call was placed to the base defense operations center to alert personnel of a real world situation developing in the camp post office.

During a routine sweep of packages being conducted by Staff Sgt. Patrick Hahnlen, K-9 handler for the 175th MP Company, his dog Cain reacted to a large package three times.

"It's an outgoing package, so it's a little more disturbing," said Postal Non-Commissioned-Officer-in-Charge Cpl. Miguel Castro.

The building in which the post office is located was evacuated and the area cordoned off for safety as EOD personnel began their evaluation of the package. EOD Team Leader Staff Sgt. Nathan Chapman donned his protective suit and took x-rays of the package while other Soldiers attempted to determine who was sending the package and what was inside.

After evaluation procedures were completed and its sender was located, Chapman lead the sender in to open it. The team determined there was nothing to worry about.

Staff Sgt. Doug A. Graham, force protection NCOIC said the incident "illustrates how fast training can become real world."



Above: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, Spc. Adam Jones helps Team Leader Staff Sgt. Nathan Chapman into his protective suit before inspecting a real world suspicious package found in the Camp Monteith post office Oct. 29.

1: Soldiers carry a simulated casualty to the troop medical clinic on Camp Monteith for further evaluation and eventual medical evacuation during "Exercise Falcon Watch" Oct. 29.

2: Medics from HHC 1-111th Infantry along with ambulance personnel work to triage victims of an "explosion" on Camp Monteith as camp firefighters bring a patient out of the blast area during a training exercise Oct. 29.

3: Chaplain Scot McCosh respects even the "suicide bomber" by covering the deceased, characterized by Spc. Wesley Bahrt, legal specialist with HHC Task Force Falcon during "Exercise Falcon Watch" Oct. 29.

“Bucktails” Soldier, NCO of Quarter

Story and photos by
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson



Staff Sgt. Todd L. Mead is pinned with the Army Commendation Medal for winning the NCO of the Quarter Board by Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., commander of MNB(E) Oct. 30. The board was held at Camp Bondsteel Oct. 20.

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – Task Force Falcon’s top rated Soldiers and non-commissioned officers gathered at Camp Bondsteel to report to a board of sergeants major Oct. 20.

The Soldier and NCO of the Quarter Boards offered eight Soldiers and eight NCOs the opportunity to compete among their peers for the titles of Task Force Falcon Soldier of the Quarter and Task Force Falcon NCO of the Quarter. When all the reporting and questioning was completed, the honors went to two peace-keeping troops from Charlie Company, 1-112th Infantry.

“I wanted to represent Task Force Associator and the NCO corps with dignity and honor,” said NCO of the Quarter Staff Sgt. Todd L. Mead.

Mead serves the “Bucktails” of Charlie Company as an infantry squad leader. As such, he was happy to give his seasoned advice to his subordinate and fellow board winner Spc. Michael T. Davido, who was awarded the honor of

Soldier of the Quarter.

Mead’s advice included telling the Soldier to be confident, answer questions clearly, and address the board members directly when answering each question.

“Before the board, I didn’t know what to expect,” Davido said. “I studied so much, I felt I had the edge.”

After fighting their way through company and battalion level boards and succeeding at the task force level, both servicemembers cited the women in their lives as being pivotal to their accomplishment.

“I had a picture of my girlfriend in my pocket,” Davido said.

He said her support and encouragement kept him confident.

Mead attributes all of his success to the support of his wife, Sherrin.

“My wife has been my mentor through all of the boards,” expressed Mead. “If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have made it this far.”

The two were recognized for their achievement Oct. 30 when MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr. visited Camp Monteith to pin the Soldiers with the Army Commendation Medal and present them with his coin.

Soldier of the Quarter Spc. Michael T. Davido (Right) of Charlie Company 1-112th Infantry receives a certificate of award and a handshake from MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr. Davido received the Army Commendation Medal.



An Army of One

Story by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – The soldiers of the 448th Civil Affairs Detachment at Camp Monteith have the difficult yet fulfilling duty of matching non-governmental agencies with civilians in Kosovo who desperately need their assistance. However, with the help of a single Soldier, their mission became more satisfying when Pennsylvania residents began helping them become more directly involved in the humanitarian mission.

Sgt. Steve Wszolek, computer operator for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-111th Infantry, wrote his mother after seeing pictures of local children during his duties in battle update briefings. The children were living in substandard conditions, without shoes or clean clothing. Wszolek, who runs the power point presentation during the meetings, was prompted to ask his mother to send some things from his home to give to the poor of the region.

"You'll never get another chance to be this kind of hero," said Wszolek.

Wszolek sent some of the unclassified pictures he was seeing in the BUB home to his family and friends. He said the pictures encouraged involvement, and he offered to pay postage if they would send a few things. The Soldier expected to pay up to \$100 in postal expenses. However, his friends began to send things and refused his offer to pay shipping, making his contribution to postage minimal.

"I've gotten a ton of children's clothes from two sisters in their seventies from Pennsylvania," said Wszolek. "They refuse to accept any money."

There is a strong need for this type of contribution. Kosovo presently holds an unemployment rate of approximately 80 percent, as well as internally displaced persons who are attempting to return to their homes and continue life.



Pictures like this of a Kosovar family at their home prompted Sgt. Steve Wszolek to begin helping. Wszolek immediately noticed the child in the center with no shoes. Photo submitted by Wszolek.



Sgt. Steve Wszolek of HHC 1-111th Infantry (Right) and Maj. Don H. Rush of 448th Civil Affairs go through a box of clothing sent by Pennsylvania natives to benefit the children of Kosovo. Wszolek acquires an average of a box per day from concerned people in the U.S. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.

"Every town you go to has needs," said Maj. Don H. Rush of the 448th CA Detachment.

Sgt. Thomas O. Mechem, team sergeant with team four of the civil affairs unit, said that their resources to conduct direct charity work are hindered somewhat by the other needs of their mission. He added that soldier involvement in conjunction with people at home enables the unit to help more.

"We see people every day that need something. To be able to give ... is gratifying," said Mechem.

Wszolek's small donation grew very quickly. He intended to help people a little when he could. When he got his family involved, the movement picked up steam and he now receives an average of a box a day from people in the U.S. He hands these boxes over to the civil affairs personnel and they find the people with the need. The people of Kosovo have a need for everything from coats to shoes and school supplies to blankets.

"It's not like T.V. when you send the money in and wonder, 'Where did the money go?'" said Wszolek. "I think that sending the pictures over the Internet made it so successful."

These events clearly illustrate how, when just one person decides to become involved, his actions can easily end up making a huge difference in the lives of others. Soldiers and their families can join in Wszolek's and the 448th Civil Affairs Detachment Soldiers' fight against poverty by sending boxes directly to the unit at the following address: Sgt. Thomas O. Mechem, 448th CA Detachment, Camp Monteith, APO, AE 09340.

A Helping Hand:

CID Provides Aid to Children

Story and photos by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Many members of the 515th Military Police Company (Criminal Investigation Division) had their first experience helping the needy of Kosovo when they delivered humanitarian aid to two churches in the Vitina Municipality Nov. 4.

W. Va. Church was the first to send boxes to the 515th. The unit intended to deliver them to whoever needed them the most. This inspired Sgt. 1st Class Dan Thomson, the unit's detachment sergeant, to create his own drive for needed items.

Soon, he had collected 10 to 12 boxes of clothes and toys for children.

"We started out thinking about taking it to an orphanage," said Chief Warrant Officer James Yingling, 515th special agent-in-charge. "But eventually we decided on churches because they're so close to their communities — they know who needs what and will make sure it gets there."

The six special agents took the first half of the donation to the Catholic Church of Binca, a small village outside of Vitina. The church, is only four years old, however, it occupies the site where a centuries-old church stood until the last war. Because of the site's history, the current church has a strong relationship with the multi-national Catholic community who attend its services, school and medical



Special Agent Chris Dixon, (center left), Interpreter Tajar Hoxha, Special Agent Bruce Anderson, and Sister Linda Pergega walk with Chief Warrant Officer James Yingling, (left), as he carries boxes of clothes and toys into the Bincha Catholic Church. The 515th Military Police Co. (Criminal Investigation Division), of which Yingling is the special agent in charge, collected humanitarian aid from various stateside groups and delivered them to needy Kosovars Nov. 4.

clinic.

Sister Linda Pergega, who teaches at the church's school, said KFOR's donations are very helpful.

"We, by ourselves, don't have the money to buy things we don't have but the people need," Pergega explained. "We survive here because of our people, our families - so we have to make sure they are surviving at home. We help each other."

Smiles abounded as the unit began to hand out toys to the children waiting in the church's "ambulance."

"Can you see all these smiling faces?" Yingling asked his Soldiers, grinning himself. "Kids like this don't usually get things. They just glow — their faces lit up like a Christmas tree."

Next, the unit traveled to the Church of Our Lady of Cernagore. More commonly, the church is known to soldiers at the Letnice Church, where a group of excited children and a hospitable priest welcomed them.

Letnice's church, where Mother Teresa received her calling to missions, supports a large body of Albanian and Serbian Catholics from all over Kosovo, and the 515th's Special Agent Mike Kremper said he felt certain their goods would be well-received in the area.

"It's hard to be away from home, but I'm glad we're accomplishing something," said Special Agent David Labranch. "Kids are the same all over the world. They're all worth it."

According to Special Agent Bruce Anderson, seeing the positive effect on the children was a good experience, but an emotional one.

"It just makes me miss my kids," Anderson said.

Labranch agreed.

"But it sure makes you thankful for what you have," he added.



A little boy from Letnice happily receives a toy truck from a 515th MP Co. (CID) soldier Nov. 4. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

Doctors Gather to Share Knowledge

Maj. David Doud, Dep. TF Surgeon, waits for hospital interpreter Dr. Arben Murtezani to finish translating a sentence before continuing his introduction at the medical conference Oct. 18.



Kosovar doctors from all over Multi-National Brigade (East) crowd into the North DFAC VIP room for a medical conference hosted by Task Force Med Falcon Oct. 18.

Story and photos by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

A group of over 40 doctors from all over Multi-National Brigade (East) gathered at Camp Bondsteel's North Dining Facility VIP room for a medical conference Oct. 18.

The conference, organized by Maj. David Doud, Deputy Task Force Surgeon, allowed local Albanian and Serbian doctors the opportunity to interact with U.S. physicians deployed to Kosovo and share knowledge about common medical problems. The doctors had come from Vitina, Kacanik, Gjilan, Strpce, Ferizaj, and from the Polish-Ukrainian and Greek battalions to hear American procedures for screening and treating Diabetes in both children and adults.

The event began with an introduction by Col. Donald Cavallo, Task Force Med Falcon commander, who welcomed everyone to the first such conference held by TFMF. Guest speakers used Albanian and Serbian interpreters to translate what they said each step of the way for their multi-ethnic audience.

The first speaker was Lt. Col. John G. Bertolino, a doctor with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-111th Infantry Battalion. Power point slides, combined with a few jokes and football trivia, allowed Bertolino to hold the audience's attention while he explained the proper way to screen for diabetic patients and stressed the need for more than one test to make a diagnoses.

Lt. Col. Diego J. Gonzalez, flight surgeon for Task Force Aviation, followed Bertolino with a lecture on diabetes in pediatric patients. More information was given after lunch by Doud on the diabetic foot, by Capt. Joseph R. Rogalinski on ocular manifestations (problems with the eyes) of diabetes, and by Lt. Col. Bobby W. Jones on the difficulties of controlling diabetic patients.

Throughout the lecture, speakers stopped to answer questions and listen to comments by doctors in the audience. By the end of the day, everyone went home with a greater understanding of diabetes and medical practices from each of the represented groups.

South Town Beauty Salon Grand Opening



Area Support Group Falcon Commander Col. McKinley Collins Jr., hairstylists Nyrtene Hashani and Luljeta Hashani, and massage therapist Elizabeth Kenyon, celebrate the grand opening of the remodeled beauty shop in Southtown by cutting the ribbon Oct. 24.

Old McDonald had a Farm, ei, e, IO

Story by Capt. Lora L. Neal

Out of the Army's many claims to fame one stands out more than the others; that is its unequalled use of acronyms. One term, formerly LIWA or Land Information Warfare Activity, is now known as 1st Information Operations Command. 1st IO is the lead agency for information operations, which is defined by the IO handbook as "actions taken to affect adversary information and information systems while defending one's own information and information systems."

Though seemingly complicated, simply said is, 'adversaries must deal with new problems before they can solve current ones. A rapid tempo can outpace an adversary's ability to make decisions, thereby contributing to their destruction. In peacekeeping or stability operations, information superiority helps deploying forces anticipate problems and requirements.' As the IO handbook states, *"it allows commanders to control events and situations earlier and with less force, creating the conditions necessary to achieve the end state."*

"This is more than just computers or computer networks," said Maj. Christopher Moore, team chief, Missouri IO Field Support Team currently supporting the 28th Infantry Division in Kosovo. "Information systems involve any way one can distribute information, be it visually, audibly, or electronic. IO is the integration of all assets – not just combat assets. Think of it as a combined Army of One, as the next evolution beyond combined arms."

The IO mission is to coordinate, de-conflict, and synchronize the seven elements of the operations component of IO. Those seven elements are: operations security, psychological operations, electronic warfare, military deception, physical destruction, civil affairs, and public affairs. It is IO's responsibility to the commander to ensure all seven IO elements are synchronized.

So, what does it mean to coordinate, de-conflict, and synchronize the seven elements of IO?

"Because Kosovo is an informa-



Members of the IO team L to R: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Pat Hyatt, MNB(E) IO Coordinator Lt. Col. John Maietta, Maj. Chris Moore, Staff Sgt. Scott Gardner, Staff Sgt. Willard 'Mikey' Kampmeier. Photo submitted by 1st IO.

tion operations environment we are trying to shape perceptions and change people's attitudes and behaviors towards each other," Moore said.

According to FM 3-0 Operations, "At its essence, information superiority is about Army Forces being able to see first, understand first, and act first. Army Forces cannot develop information superiority if they are constantly reacting to enemy operations."

Previously 1st IO Command put together IO teams independent of the units they supported. They were almost like independent contractors in that they always had volunteers to put together IO teams. The National Guard embraced the future role of IO by making IO cells a part of the force structure. This is one of the Army's key assets from the perspective that those Guard teams come in on deployments and augment the existing structure.

Staff Sgt. Willard Kampmeier, FST non-commissioned officer-in-charge added, "There is a lot of gray in the perceptions of what we do. It is difficult to second guess what the outcomes might be if one change occurs in any plan. IO has to be able to identify the differences in cause and effect and anticipate problems and requirements, thus providing information superiority."

FM 3-0 states, "Information superiority allows commanders to make better decisions more quickly than their enemies and adversaries. It allows commanders to control events and situations earlier and with less force, creating conditions necessary to achieve the end state."

"We want to make sure what we're doing supports the commander's intent and that all elements involved understand what we're doing and support it," said Moore.

As Kosovo Forces continue to support the transfer of authority to the Kosovo Police Service and the UN Mission in Kosovo police, this message becomes especially important. KFOR must work with the UN to establish a plan in order for the transition to take place.

One last area of importance is the quality of life issues that IO addresses in its mission. Staff Sgt. Scott Gardner, MNB(E) IO planner added, "[Use of] information operations is one way KFOR is striving to fulfill its mission for better living conditions in Kosovo." Like every mission, there is desired outcome from all of the planning and coordinating. For IO, that end state is to leave the citizens of Kosovo with the feeling of stability and security they desperately deserve.

At the Table:

**Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Gen. Peter Pace, Visits Bondsteel**

Story and photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited Camp Bondsteel Oct. 31 and had a breakfast meeting with service members who work on the camp.

Gen. Peter Pace, the first Marine to hold the office of vice chairman, made his morning appearance with Brigadier Anton Turk, deputy chief of the general staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

"I have spent a lot of time talking with Brigadier Turk," Pace told the troops at breakfast. "He has seen what Americans have done with KFOR, and he believes – and I do – that you're doing a good job here."

Pace circled the room and presented every servicemember with his coin.

"It's not a coin exactly," Pace joked. "It's shaped like a dog-tag. And it has my signature on it, so if you have a blank check, you're good to go," he added, laughing with the troops.

The individuals Pace brought to breakfast represented the gravitation from service-specific forces to a joint military force he said he's seen over recent years.

At his table sat two Soldiers, one from the National Guard and one from the Reserves, along with a Marine, an airman and a sailor.

"Now, you work very hard in your own service," Pace explained. "You're very proud of your own service. But you appreciate and value what the other services bring to the table."

"It's not like it used to be," he said. "We must work



Gen. Peter Pace greets Soldiers, including Alpha Co., 2-112th Infantry Rifleman Spc. Donald Stephens, (right), at Camp Bondsteel Oct. 31.

hard at working together."

The vice chairman also had specific words for the Soldiers there.

"I have respect for (the National Guardsmen and Reservists) because I realize the enormous amount of personal energy and resources it takes to continue to be able to serve their country," Pace explained.

Pace recently said it is a much different force today than that of the "conscripted" era soldier when he first joined the Marine Corps.

"It's a whole different platform to be standing on when deciding if you're going to go left or go right with your own personal future," he added.

Pace posed for a group photo with the troops at the end of the meal before meeting with Command Group members.

"Thanks for speaking with me," he told the servicemembers. "You're doing a really great job here."

NEAL

From page 4

eternally grateful for their patience, humor, and wisdom. They truly are the backbone of the Army. It has been fun working for a boss who is perceptive. Her constant mentoring has taught me more about leadership than I have learned in 16 previous years in the military.

Isn't it funny, now that my time here is short I have already started to forget the stressful situations that made me lose my hair. My recollection is that this experience has been almost too amazing to articulate adequately.

At Camp Bondsteel I have seen some of the most gorgeous sunrises and sunsets in my life. Every single time I got a clear view of Big Duke it literally took my breath away. I walked under the moonlit sky many summer

nights and contemplated my children viewing the same moon. I stood up on the hill north of the SOCCE compound marveling at the quaint looking villages dotting the hills. I LOVE running Radar Hill the back way. That run provides, bar none, the best view from camp. Try it. Once you get on the far south road up the hill after coming down Radar Hill the country is beautiful. I even enjoy running up Radar Hill a couple of times a month. Making it up the hill feels like VICTORY.

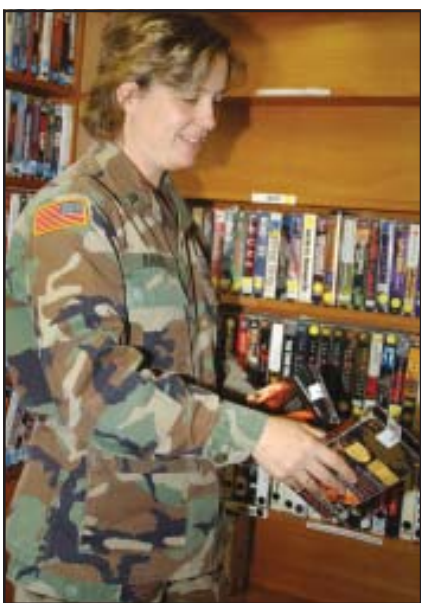
A lot of the good that has happened here could not have happened but for good leadership. We are so in tune with taking care of our Soldiers that we sometimes forget about our leaders. Ask the CSM or SGM how they are doing. Ask your boss as well. Their families miss them and they get homesick too. The CG and the other leaders are humans, so take one

minute to stop and genuinely ask, "How are you?" Then listen. Offer words of encouragement if needed. Sometimes hugs are good medicine. Your time in Kosovo will also fly. Learn as much as you can. Make time for a cup of cappuccino. Don't hate, *motivate*. And watch out for the giant rabbits.

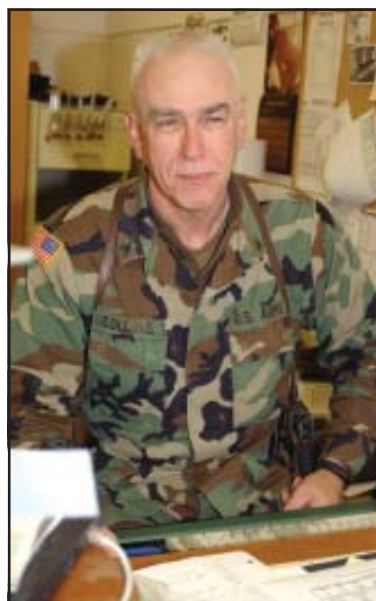
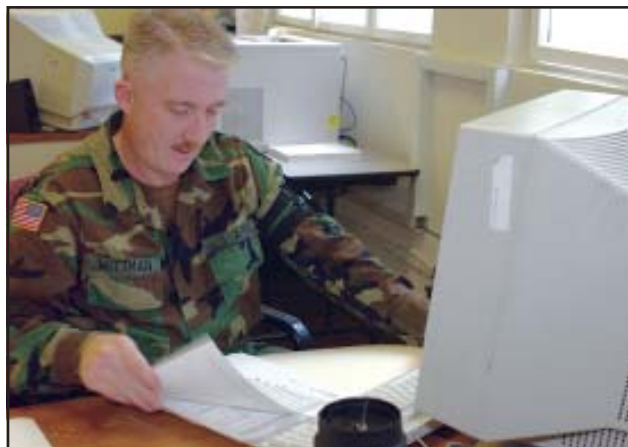
Leaving Kosovo just longer than 6 months in country gives me cause to think back. I do have a good sense of what the mission is. I do have an acute feel for the pain some of the citizens here continue to experience after four years of relative peace. I do worry about whether or not Kosovo will ever gain its independence or if that is in its best interest. Once I leave I go back to my life. I will slowly lose the passion I felt here until I have no more. That is why I need this reflection piece, so I can remember what it was I took away from Kosovo.

Faces of MNB(E)

Right: Spc. Phyllis Baker, the Camp Bondsteel Can-teen (formerly the Red Cross Office) hostess, organizes movies. The Enola, Pa. native ensures that coffee is made, cookies are out, videos and books are available, and that "soldiers have what they need." Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.



Below: Pvt. William H. Wittman III shuffles through paperwork as he reviews awards records as part of his duties as an assistant in the Task Force Associator S-1 shop. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Left: Sgt. Thomas Collins, liason officer and motor pool sergeant for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade, fills out vehicle parts request forms. The Deptford, N.J. native supervises Brown and Root maintenance workers, oversees the redispaching of vehicles and orders parts for the HHC motor pool. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

Below: S-1 Officer-in-Charge Capt. Christopher T. Clark prepares documents. Clark also serves 1-111th Infantry as the batallion adjutant. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Left: Camp Bondsteel Force Protection officer Capt. Ben McCollum reviews documents on a conference call. The Spartanburg, S. Carolina native's main responsibilities with Area Support Group Falcon include developing policies and procedures for all units on terrorism, vulnerability assessments, security and incident responses. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

Soul Food: *A message from the Chaplain:*

Chapel Services

Camp Bondsteel North

Sunday

0800 Liturgical Protestant
0930 Roman Catholic Mass
1100 Contemp. Protestant
1400 Gospel Service

Tuesday

1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Wednesday

1900 Bible Study
2030 Gospel Choir Practice

Thursday

1900 Roman Catholic Mass

Friday

1330 Muslim Prayer Time
1800 Shabbat Prayer Time
1900 Prayer and Men's/Women's
Bible Studies

Saturday

1300 Praise Team Practice
1900 Gospel Choir Practice

Camp Bondsteel South

Sunday

0800 Roman Catholic Mass
0930 Nondenominational
Christian Service
1300 Latter Day Saints Service
1930 Nondenominational
Christian Service

Monday

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday

1930 Roman Catholic Mass

Camp Monteith

Sunday

0830 Men's Bible Study
1000 Protestant Service
1230 Catholic Mass
1600 Church of Christ
1700 Protestant Service

Tuesday

1900 Bible Study

Wednesday

1830 Catholic Confession/
Reconciliation
1900 Catholic Mass

Friday

1300 Muslim Prayer
(Chapel Annex)
1800 Jewish Shabbat Prayer

Holding On or Pressing On



Chaplain (Maj.) Bruce Farrell

By Chaplain (Maj.) Bruce Farrell

The other day someone announced, "Well, we are over the hump" - He meant the amount of time we had left here in Bondsteel as members of the 28th was less than the amount of time we have been here. Later that day I went to a computer program that had been sent to me and, sure enough, the pie graph showed we were 50% done with the deployment at CBS and 68% done with our year of activation.

Last month I was one of the leaders of the spiritual retreat to Philippi, Greece. The apostle Paul's words to the church there came alive in a new way. Paul wrote to them while under house arrest in Rome for disturbing the peace by proclaiming his new faith of Christ. His future was uncertain. Would he be exonerated on charges of disturbing the world through his preaching or condemned?

Paul's advice to the Philippians is excellent medicine for all of us whether

we are "religious" or not. "Forgetting what is behind and pressing on to what lies ahead" Philippians 3:13. These words illustrate the key to a fruitful life: it is deal with the past, live in the present, and press on to the future.

Are you holding on, just counting the days (whether that be four days, weeks, or months) till your departure? If you are staring at the clock I can promise you time will slow down. When we fixate on something, we become controlled by it.

Paul, in spite of his precarious position, had something to look forward to. Paul used his time under house arrest to write letters to churches he had started or knew. These letters would later become books of the Bible. He testified to his captors, the Roman guard, and many of them found his faith in God.

How are you using your remaining time at Bondsteel or Monteith? Are you holding on, just trying to get through? Or are you pressing on, using the time to do the best job and to advance personally and professionally?

Sophistication Of Attacks Challenges Military

By Bill Nichols, USA Today

WASHINGTON — The terrorist onslaught that killed at least 35 people in Baghdad leaves shaken U.S. officials increasingly concerned about an important question: Who are they fighting?

Before Monday's string of suicide car bombings — four within 45 minutes on the first day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan — the prevailing view among U.S. officials was that terrorist strikes in Iraq are being carried out by a loosely organized network loyal to deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime, with some help from foreign nationals and terrorist groups.

But the level of planning and sophistication necessary for this latest series of attacks heightened concern that foreign fighters are behind the increasingly deadly level of violence. That could raise the stakes for U.S. troops, who might be facing highly trained and disciplined terrorists, rather than ragtag remnants of the defeated Iraqi army.

Even within the U.S. military, there is open disagreement about who is staging or coordinating the attacks, implicit confirmation that the administration's intelligence operations have so far failed to effectively penetrate the forces arrayed against U.S. troops.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling told reporters in Baghdad that the attacks "seem to have been the operations of foreign fighters. They are not something we have seen in the former regime loyalists."

In a video press conference from Tikrit, Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno told reporters in Washington that foreign fighters account for only "a very, very small percentage" of the forces resisting the U.S.-led occupation. Odierno heads U.S. forces in the "Sunni Triangle" that stretches from Baghdad to Tikrit and is a stronghold for pro-Saddam factions of Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority. He is not responsible for Baghdad itself, however.

"What I found is Iraqis do not like people from other countries fooling in Iraqi business," Odierno said. "They don't like Iranians here, they don't like Syrians, they really like their own people being involved in this."

A combination of the two theories may be at work in Iraq, says Kenneth Katzman, a Congressional Research Service expert on Mideast terrorism. Katzman says it is possible the suicide attacks are being committed by young Iraqis who have looked at groups such as Hamas and al-Qaeda "and are perfectly capable of using these tactics."

Suicide Attempt Goes Wrong When Police Miss Target

Knoxville News-Sentinel, Sept. 19, 2002

In Knoxville, Tenn., in September, Thomas Martin McGouey, 51, apparently set on committing suicide, left a note and painted a bull's-eye on his body before arranging a standoff in which he pointed a gun at police officers so they would kill him in self-defense. McGouey's scheme failed because Knox County sheriff's deputies, who fired 28 shots at him, missed with 27 and only grazed his shoulder with the other.

Dirty Cops Uncovered

Kansas City Star-AP, 9-26-03

Thailand's leading massage-parlor/prostitution entrepreneur, Chuwit Kamolvisit, reacted with outrage when he was charged this summer in connection with two criminal cases because, he said, he has paid police the equivalent of US\$2.5 million in bribes to get immunity. Mr. Chuwit called a series of press conferences in July, at which he released information on whom he had been bribing and who some of his customers were, and in September, he announced he would form a new political party to put an end to Thailand's culture of official corruption.

Is There Too Much PDA in Moscow's Subways?

MOSCOW, Russia (Reuters) — Couples caught kissing on Moscow's underground rail system could be fined under new regulations being considered by city authorities while those going too far could face jail, a newspaper's Web site said on Friday.

The kissing ban could even extend to a husband embracing his wife, Stolichnaya Vechernyaya Gazeta said on its Web site.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, said the city authorities were thinking of introducing the ban to raise levels of public morality.

"From the New Year citizens kissing and embracing publicly will be fined," it said. "Particularly blatant cases could even lead to a spell of temporary detention in jail," it added.

Moscow police would not comment on the report.

Soldier on the Street

What's your favorite movie line, and from what movie?



Slawomir Szczypinski

Rank: Capt.
Unit: Polish-Ukrainian Battalion
Job: liaison officer
Hometown: Swidwin, Poland
Quote: "Let's dance Baby!" from the Polish movie "Dogs."



Tiffany Lopez

Rank: Sgt.
Unit: 448th Civil Affairs Battalion
Job: Civil Affairs Sergeant
Hometown: Bremerton, Wash.
Quote: "Tis but a scratch." "A scratch? Your arm's off!" "No, it isn't." "Well, what's that, then?" "I've had worse," from Monty Python's "Search for the Holy Grail."



James Myers

Rank: Sgt.
Unit: Task Force Falcon G-6
Job: Help Desk assistant NCOIC
Hometown: Aliquippa, Pa.
Quote: "Have you ever stood and stared at it, Morpheus? Marveled at its beauty. Its genius. Billions of people just living out their lives...oblivious," from "The Matrix."



Achilleas Kaliabakas

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Greece)
Job: liaison officer
Hometown: Veria, Greece
Quote: "Go ahead, make my day," from "Dirty Harry."



Vernon Ray Sr.

Rank: Sgt.
Unit: HHC
Job: 1-111th Infantry, Medic
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.
Quote: "Go ahead, make my day," from "Dirty Harry."



Willard "Mikey" Kampmeier

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: Missouri Information Operations Field Support Team
Job: IO NCOIC
Hometown: Kansas City, Kan.
Quote: "She'll be back," from "Terminator III."

Scenes of Kosovo

A Kosovo hound sits outside his dog house surrounded by the mountainous vegetation in Gornja Bitina, Kosovo. The dog's owners are Miftar and Rahime Baku, residents of Gornja Bitina. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witter.

